



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Hosted by  **UNOPS**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

JINJA

*Strengthening Capacity for Urban Migration
Management and Improving Migrant Livelihoods in
Jinja City, Uganda*

Implementing Partner: The Jinja Municipal City Council, Makerere University, and the slum dweller organisation ACTogether

Location: Jinja, Uganda

Duration: December 2019 – November 2021

SUMMARY

The Strengthening Capacity for Urban Migration Management and Improving Migrant Livelihoods in Jinja City, Uganda, project built knowledge on rural-urban migrants in Jinja and the effects on poor host communities. The Jinja Municipal City Council, in close collaboration with citizen representatives, designed and implemented a migration management project focusing on secure land tenure for slum dwellers, the economic inclusion of poor migrant and non-migrant households through financial services and investment in viable enterprises, asset building, housing upgrading, and access to basic urban infrastructure, utilities and services.



THE CITIES ALLIANCE GLOBAL PROGRAMME ON CITIES AND MIGRATION

The Strengthening Capacity for Urban Migration Management and Improving Migrant Livelihoods in Jinja City project is part of the Cities Alliance Global Programme on Cities and Migration, which focuses on migration management in secondary cities in low-income countries and is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The project in Jinja is one of a global portfolio of nine cities that includes Amatitlán and San Marcos, Guatemala; Jendouba and Kairouan, Tunisia; Arua, Uganda; Adama and Jigjiga, Ethiopia; and Kakuma-Kalobeyei in Kenya.

CONTEXT

The second largest city in Uganda, Jinja has a population of slightly over 71,000, according to the 2014 census. However, the city administration estimates that Jinja's current daytime population swells to 400,000 when other groups of people in the city are counted: unregistered residents, people who reside just outside the official municipal boundary, and those who commute on a daily basis to do business or use city services.

Jinja has long attracted migrants seeking economic opportunities. During the 1960s and 1970s, it was an important industrial town, attracting many labour migrants. When the industrial base collapsed in the late 1970s and 1980s, many of the migrants remained in Jinja. Since then, rural-urban labour migration has continued, with additional people seeking protection from civil strife or environmental disasters, especially in the Karimajong and Teso sub-region of northeastern Uganda.

Today, migrants born outside Jinja or Uganda make up over half of the city's population. The majority are women and youth living in poverty, either unemployed or underemployed in low-paying informal activities such as market vendors and boda-boda riders. Most migrants remain undocumented and live together with the city's existing poor population in the Karamoja, Kibugambata, Makenke, and Soweto slums. The Jinja Municipal Council needs data, knowledge and strategies to support access to livelihoods and decent housing for both its migrant and host populations.

RESULTS

Result 1: Improved Knowledge on Urban Migration in Jinja

The project conducted surveys of slum households and small businesses in Jinja to build knowledge on the migration situation, trends, challenges and opportunities in Jinja, and how they impact the development of a sustainable, resilient city. With that information, Jinja developed a gender-sensitive urban migration profile and capacity needs assessment. Both knowledge products are informing the Jinja City Council on how to better integrate migrant households and businesses into the urban economy.

“Jinja city lacks an information base to enable it to plan and make well-informed and cost-effective policies and decisions on migration management and integration.”

— Mr. Majid Batambuze,
Mayor of Jinja from 2017–2021

Result 2: Participatory City Migration Management

The Jinja Municipal Council used the information from the profiling activity to develop participatory mechanisms to improve city planning and decision making on migration. The Council brought together all stakeholders (local authorities, academics, slum dwellers, migrants, local businesses and media) to develop a shared vision for how the city should manage migration. This process has also included peer learning exchanges, for instance between Jinja saving groups and the Kampala Metropolitan Boda-boda Entrepreneurs Association (KAMBE), which is one of the biggest representative bodies for informal workers in Uganda.

Result 3: Operationalising Economic Inclusion and Improved Housing

Through the project, Jinja has begun supporting migrant and poor host communities to access economic opportunities and decent housing in the Kibugambata and Soweto communities. Partnerships with financial institutions are providing community-based finance schemes for value addition, local produce, and improved employment to boda-boda riders as well as market vendors and fishmonger, many of them women. Slum dwellers have mobilised into 162 saving groups with 8,828 members (42% women) who use the savings for micro-community enterprise projects in the field of maize milling, fish farming, and manufacturing of consumer goods and groceries such as shoes, juice, soap, briquettes, and textiles, with the Jinja City Council procuring the necessary equipment.

A gender-sensitive community housing upgrading scheme co-financed by the Jinja City Council is benefitting 2,000 slum dwellers (40 per cent women), both migrants and long-term residents, to finance more decent housing and improved services. It was a participatory process, with forums in slums giving residents the opportunity to prioritise their needs.

Residents stressed that tenancy and land-titling were among their biggest concerns. The project adapted its approach and worked with slum dwellers, community organisations, and the Jinja City Council to conduct surveys, mediate conflicts on plans, and facilitate the numerous steps to register land titles.

The authorities are expected to release 250 titles as a result of this project, providing secure tenure to homes for approximately 1,500 people.

“
People are employed, they are able to educate their children, they will have even formal settlements, with time. So, it has really done something good in the community.”

— Milia Dauda, Secretary General of Shoe Group Development Association and beneficiary of the CDF

